

# Fact Sheet: **Energy Reduction Activities**

---



## **Division of Public Works Facilities Management and Construction**

502 North 4th  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0072  
208 332-1900 FAX: 334-4031



## **The Capitol Mall Geothermal Energy Project**

The Department of Administration, Division of Public Works, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, pioneered the use of geothermal energy with completion in 1982 of the **Capitol Mall Geothermal Energy Project**. Following a successful pilot demonstration project in 1975, and stimulated by the energy crisis of the 1970s, two wells were drilled to depths of 2,100 and 3,000 feet on the east and northwest corners of the Mall area. The system, was built at a cost of \$1,850,000, and has produced through natural artesian pressure, low-cost space and hot water heating (750,000 square feet) for the Idaho Statehouse and eight other major state buildings for nearly 20 years. In 1981, the estimated natural gas cost savings was projected at \$150,000 per year, and when calculated appropriately through the years, would represent an estimated savings of \$4 million today. The existing natural gas heating system is retained as a backup to the geothermal system and for supplying additional heat requirements on extremely cold days. This natural hot water source has heated homes and businesses in east Boise for nearly a century.

## **‘Powering Down’ of Capitol Mall Buildings, Department of Administration**

The Division of Public Works – Facilities Services, began the practice of **‘powering down’** the 17 buildings it manages in Boise, Idaho Falls and Lewiston nearly 15 years ago. This includes turning off heating, cooling in summer, and lighting systems every night, and over the weekends. Department of Administration employees also turn off desktop computers at night, along with peripheral items such as printers, copiers, etc. The Department maintains 24 walk-up copy machines throughout the Capitol Mall area. All can be programmed to power down. All equipment in the Department’s Copy Center and Postal Services Center is turned off each night, and in most cases, have rest modes when not in use.

## **Department Encourages Use of Alternative Transportation to Mall Employees**

The Department has actively promoted to state employees the use of **alternative transportation** methods including car-pooling, use of the city’s bus system, and commuting options in the Treasure Valley. During the three-month Legislative Session, state employees are encouraged to use their \$5 monthly parking permit to ride The Bus free of charge as a means to reduce both energy consumption and accommodate parking needs of visiting legislators.